

Judicial Filibuster

Daniel Shin

As the Democrats struggle to hold their Republican counter parts from pushing the judicial nomination, the Republican Senate majority leader Bill Frist threatened to use the "Nuclear Option" to strip away Democrat's power of filibustering judicial nominees. This issue has polarized both house of congress, and it has threatened to stop all legislative progress. Democrat's procedural tactics are currently slowing down any progress for the Republicans to push for a nomination vote. Both party must stop their current political tactics and start a serious compromise dialogue, or some serious political consequence will occur soon.

The Republicans must stop "sucking-up" towards the conservative Christian groups. The issue is not a religious matter, and in fact, some of the Republicans expressed their support for the judicial nomination because of their loyalty to President Bush, nothing more. Republican Senators like Bill Frist is trying to get

the Christian conservatives involved, because he wants to gain more political power for his own agenda in the future. Republicans should stop infuriate conservative Christian groups, because the issue has nothing to do with religious matters.

The Democrats is facing a tough road ahead if they continue their "blockade" tactics. Democratic leaders are calling for a complete rejection of any compromise for the filibuster question. Unfortunately, if they continue to filibuster President Bush's nominees, they will be soon portrayed as an obstructionist in Washington. Their policy of non-negotiation will not accomplish anything at the end, even if the filibuster lasted through President Bush's second term. Democrats should come to the table, start a serious compromise talk with the Republicans, and bargain for more moderate judicial nominees. Filibuster and slowing down the Senate floor is fine as long as a serious progress for a compromise is worked upon.

Newsweek's Mistake

Although Newsweek magazine retracted its story completely, their battle is far from over. The article sparked anti-American protest all across the Middle East and the Islamic world, and the U.S. government is planning to submit legal charges against the magazine.

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The consequence of the article is immeasurable. The damage has been done to the image of the media, and the U.S. abroad. This situation should be handled in the most delicate manner to prevent further infuriation in the Islamic world, but the matter should also be dealt with a harsh tone to prevent media from making another damaging mistake again.

In the world of the press and news organization, the pressure to publish the most provocative and intriguing story has pushed many news media organizations to rush stories with inadequate journalism standards. In the case of Newsweek, the magazine had only one source who now doubts his own story. Their ambition to publish the most stunning story not only cost their reputation, but it also damaged the reputation of the general media and the U.S. abroad. The best course of action for the magazine is to "fire" the people who wrote the article and who checked the article for publication. If they continue to drag this situation for a prolong time without serious actions,

the magazine will be in a deeper hole as government investigation will drill the news organization into pieces. To show the serious and admission tone of the news organization, Newsweek should give a formal and sincere apology to the public, the Islamic world, and the U.S. government. The first apology was not adequate, because as they were apologizing the representative also defended the news organization from publishing the article by blaming their source for error.

The U.S. government has a larger role in wrapping-up the situation. The government is currently viewed as a large, controlling body that is trying to silence the free media from publishing factual charges against them. The U.S. government must be very careful when prosecuting Newsweek magazine, or they will reinforce the portrayal as a body that suppress media. At the same time, the government should be a little aggressive against Newsweek to prevent other media organization from making the same mistake.

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